

PORTABLE LIGHT WITH STAND

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a portable, handheld light, and more specifically to a multi-function portable light which can be utilized as a handheld flash light and which can be additionally utilized as a lamp for lighting a work area without being hand held by the user.

Portable lights employing high intensity lamps powered, for example by a 12 volt or 6 volt battery are well known and are widely commercially available. Such portable lights are often housed in a cylindrical or boxy type housing and it is common to attached a hand grip to the housing for easily directing the light beam.

One inconvenience in utilizing such portable lights is that when the user directs the light beam in a forward direction to light up more distant stretches of a path, the area of the path immediately in front of the footsteps of the user remains dark, presenting the possibility of stumbling over an unseen object and/or irregularity in the pathway. If the user directs the light beam to the immediate area in front of himself or herself, then the more distant areas of the pathway remain dark. Accordingly, the user of the portable light is forced to continue switching the direction of the light beam so that both the immediate area in front of the user as well as the more distant areas can be illuminated. It would be desirable if the user did not have to continue switching directions of the light beam and still have near and distant areas illuminated.

Additionally, it is often desirable to utilize a portable light to illuminate a work area without having to hold the portable light to stabilize it. Furthermore, it is often not necessary to utilize the full candle power of the high intensity lamp for illuminating a relatively close work area. Therefore, it would be desirable to provide a mechanism for stabilizing the portable light on a surface and to utilize a lower intensity lamp beam in order to conserve battery power.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide a portable light source which includes both a high intensity lamp for illuminating distant areas and a lower intensity lamp for lighting a close in area, for example a pathway immediately in front of the holder of the portable light source.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a portable light source which includes a deployable stand for stabilizing the light source on a surface so that the portable light source can be used to illuminate a work area without being held by the user.

The above and other objects are accomplished according to the invention by the provision of a portable light which includes first and second d.c. lamps; a first housing portion having a longitudinal axis and enclosing the first lamp for projecting a first light beam in a direction of the longitudinal axis of the first housing portion, the first housing portion having an exterior surface contour and including a compartment containing electrical means for connecting to a d.c. power supply connectable in circuit with the first lamp; a second housing portion having a shape of a hand grip and extending from a first side of the first housing portion in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the first housing portion, the second housing portion enclosing the second lamp connectable in circuit with the electrical means for projecting a second light beam in a direction forming an angle with the longitudinal axis of the first housing portion;

and a support pivotally connected to the first housing portion and being pivotable between a closed position in which the support has a shape which generally conforms to the contour of the exterior surface of the first housing portion and an open position in which the support forms a stand extending from an opposite side of the first housing portion from that of the first side of the first housing portion for stabilizing the portable light on a surface so that at least one of the first and second lamps can be directed towards a work area.

According to a further feature of the invention, the first lamp has a higher intensity relative to the second lamp. Desirably, the second portion comprising the hand grip includes a free end and the second lamp is arranged near the free end of the hand grip. Preferably the first and second lamps can be independently controlled to switch on and off so that they can be used simultaneously or independent of one another.

According to preferred embodiment of the invention the support includes a first element which is Y-shaped, with the single leg of the Y being pivotally connected to the first housing portion and the two legs at the other end of the Y adapted to rest on the surface when the element is pivoted away from the first housing portion. Desirably, the first housing portion includes a shoulder which presents a stop for limiting the pivoting angle of the first element of the support. In a more preferred embodiment of the invention the support includes a second element that is pivotally connected to the first housing portion for presenting a third leg adapted to rest on a surface when pivoted away from the first housing portion so as to present a three point stand when both the first and second elements of the support are deployed.

Other features, advantages and benefits of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a portable light according to the invention.

FIG. 2 shows another perspective view of the portable light according to the invention and showing a three legged support deployed for forming a stand for the portable light.

FIG. 3 is a further perspective view of the portable light according to the invention showing one of the elements of the support partially deployed.

FIG. 4 is an elevational view of the "Y" shaped element for use in the deployable support illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3.

FIG. 5 is a right side elevational view of the portable light illustrated in FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a back elevation of the portable light shown in FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown a portable light according to the invention which includes a first housing portion 12 enclosing a high intensity lamp 14 and a d.c. power source (not shown). FIG. 6 shows a back elevation of the light source of FIG. 1 wherein there is shown a cover 15 for a battery compartment in which there is disposed electrical contacts (not shown) for connection to a conventional 12 volt battery (not shown) housed in the compartment.